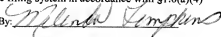


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)	Group Art Unit: 1657
SHUICHI MIZUNO, ET AL.)	
)	Examiner: NAFF, DAVID M.
Serial No.: 10/625,245)	
)	Confirmation No.: 9296
Filed: JULY 22, 2003)	
)	Customer No.: 23308
For: NEO-CARTILAGE CONSTRUCTS)	
AND A METHOD FOR PREPARATION)	
THEREOF)	

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

<p align="center">CERTIFICATE OF MAILING or FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)(1), or ELECTRONIC FILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)(1)(C)</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is, on the date shown below, being</p> <p><u> ✓ </u> transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with §1.6(a)(4)</p> <p>Dated: March 24, 2010</p> <p>By: </p> <p align="right">Name: Melinda Tompkins</p>

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in response to the Advisory Action dated January 28, 2010 and also in response to the Final Office Action dated October 28, 2009.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2.

Remarks and Arguments begin on page 5.

This Preliminary Amendment being filed with an EFS Web Transmittal Form, Petition for Extension of Time (2 Months) and Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Fees due for the filing of the Request for Continued Examination and Petition for Extension of Time will be paid at the time of electronic filing. If it is determined that additional fees are due with the filing of this paper, Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees, or credit any over payment, to Peters Verny, LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1331.